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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 16 | Humidity 20% Partly cloudy. Misty morning Sensex 59,037 | Nifty 17,617 | Gold 48,236 | Silver 64,820 | Dollar 74.42 | Euro 84.45 | GBP 100.88

Show me the money

Analysts say finance will prove critical to put our electrical vehicle dream into the next gear

>> EV makers press for incentives in Budget 2022-23

>> IIT researchers develop new tech for charging Electric vehicles which costs half the current one

BDA transports Varthur Lake silt to 7 villages within 15 km periphery, supplies it to 50-odd farmers free-of-cost, and demand is increasing

SPOILS OF LAKE SOIL

Varthur silt to stop Bengaluru farm wilt

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KAUSHIK JN

When the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) started restoration work at the Varthur Lake last year, it faced a herculean task to dispose of oodles of accumulated silt. However, the BDA had a eureka moment: use the silt as manure in the surrounding farmlands. Today, villagers in the vicinity of the lake are reaping the benefits.

This conservation work has proved doubly beneficial for the farmers who started using the lake silt in their fields.

Yallesh N, a resident of a village near Varthur Lake, is already seeing encouraging results from the application of the silt in his farmland. According to Yallesh, the crop productivity at his farm has gone up by more than Rs 1.5 lakh/acre/annum.

"My four-acre farmland had eucalyptus cultivation for many years. When the government banned the cultivation and planting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

"We have been growing roses for the last 70 years; productivity has never been this good. It's gone up by 60% with Varthur silt

— GK Manjunath Babu, Rose grower

Electric ride in eclectic Bengaluru

455 EV charging stations to come up in next three months in city

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The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) is all set to increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations in the city.

The department which had so far installed 136 EV charging stations, has now plans to install an additional 455 charging stations in the next three months, to further encourage the use of electric vehicles in Bengaluru.

So far, BESCOM has installed over 30 DC EV fast chargers and 106 AC EV slow chargers in its office premises, Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha, KSRTC, BDA, Transport Department office and some RTO offices. The 455 planned EV charging stations are said to be all DC, which would help in charging the batteries a tad faster.

BESCOM is the first nodal agency to have introduced charging stations in the country, as it believes that amidst the rising fossil fuel prices and environmental awareness, people are starting to adopt the use of electric vehicles, hence the demand for charging stations has gone up.

BESCOM managing director Rajendra Cholan told Bangalore Mirror: "We have identified the places to install

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Colourful session

Learn how to paint and master some cool techniques with a professional artist Chandrima Mandal. You'll be guided on learning the layering technique in poster colours. It is a 3-layered painting which has a combination of brush painting and blending method. The stationeries required include: poster colours, paint brush - flat brush - minimum size 11, medium brush - size 6 to 9, thin brush - size 1 and 0, spare unused toothbrush, pencils, eraser. **Where: Zoom When: Jan 29, 3 pm; Register: Rs 366, bookmyshow.com**

02 It's show time

Catch Janashatru, a Kannada adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's An Enemy of the People. The play focuses on the plight and the determination of one individual. It also attempts to underscore the importance of being an individual in times of majoritarian democracy. B V Shrunga, Keerthi Bhanu, Ganesh Shenoy, Raag Urs, will be performing on stage. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar 2nd Phase When: Feb 4, 7:30 pm; Tickets: Rs 150, bookmyshow.com**

03 Funny bones

To take Kannada stand-up comedy to the next level, citizens are welcome to take up the stage or enjoy as an audience at Kannada Open Mic evening. **Where: Samith Clinic, HRBR Layout When: Feb 27, 6 pm; Tickets: Rs 50, insider.in**

COVID CASH CRUNCH

Survey states 79% of Indians faced income reduction during pandemic

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Covid has not just hit us physically, but also economically. It has been two years since Indians are grappling with covid and its associated economic losses.

According to a latest survey, the top three worries of Indians during covid pandemic were rising medical and treatment costs, instability of job or business and health. The other worries which have compounded are economic slowdown, mental health due to increased workload, loss of life, inadequate health insurance and inflation. The survey found that 79 per cent of Indians faced income reduction. Though 44 per cent of Indians' income has been restored, more than one third is still facing reduced income. The reduction in income has definitely affected the way people spend.

SBI Life had recently released the results of the financial immunity survey 2.0 which decoded the evolving behaviour of Indian consumers towards financial immunity. The survey has thrown some startling revelations. Around 80 per cent of those who were interviewed strongly felt that they were prepared towards physical immunity to tackle the third wave as compared to first and second waves.

One of the key reasons for this confidence was an increase in vaccination drive as 74 per cent of the surveyed people had taken double dose and 23 per cent single dose.

Samples being collected for covid testing near KR Market

Covid had brought a change in lifestyle for many. This was reflected in the survey as well. The various steps taken to prepare for the pandemic was eating healthy, taking vaccination and using immunity boosters. One of the biggest worries across the world is that many were pushed to poverty and many others had seen drastic reduction in income.

The survey mentions that 41 per cent of respondents had lesser savings due to reduction in income, while 37 per cent had to cut down on their domestic or international travel.

Sadly, 29 per cent of the respondents said that the reduction in income had affected them in providing quality education, while 27 per cent of entrepreneurs could not start their new ventures. Another 26 per cent could not buy durables or gadgets of their choice. Among the respondents, 24 per cent could not buy new cars, 23 per cent could not buy homes, while 18 per cent could not get married due to financial crises.

Now comes the big question as to how did people manage their finances? Many respondents felt that they had to reduce spending on non-essential items, others used their saved emergency funds, took loans, generated multiple sources and others had to sell their investments.

Many felt that they had to reduce spending on non-essential items, while others used their emergency fund

Change in behaviour

Covid has opened a new chapter for many. It has also changed the behaviour of many Indians towards savings or investments. The report states that 75 per cent of Indians increased their savings or investments since January 21. The report states that 57 per cent of Indians feel financial immunity is equal to being financially secure and stable.

Co-existing with coronavirus

Now, the glimmer of hope is vaccinations. "The advent of the third wave has brought focus on booster doses and vaccination for the younger populace. The human race is racing to adapt. Behaviour, attitudes and mindsets are fast adapting to the new normal and building on physical and financial resilience in face of the evolving realities," the report stated.

Most covid+ patients being treated in OPDs

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Despite the increase in the number of people getting infected with the covid-19 virus, more than 90 per cent of patients in the country are being treated at the outpatient department. During the third wave, most patients are suffering from respiratory tract infections such as sore throat, fever and myalgia which are getting resolved within 4-5 days. The numbers of people who require anti-inflammatory medicines are extremely low.

A comparison of hospitalisation during the peak of three waves shows that it is least in the third wave. On March 20, 2020 (when the State reported its highest of 9,047 cases), 16 per cent of hospital beds were occupied. During the Delta driven wave of March 21, 2021 (when 50,112 cases were reported in Karnataka), 21 per cent of the hospital beds were occupied while on January 21 (when 47,754 cases were reported), 5 per cent of hospital beds were occupied in the State.

People who are having symptoms are being given simple treatments. They are prescribed Paracetamol and vitamin C along with a lot of fluids to keep the body well hydrated. The patients who are asymptomatic are not given any medicine. They are just asked to self-monitor their health and consult a physician when symptoms develop. "There is no requirement of isolation for asymptomatic patients because there is community spread going on right now and everyone is exposed to the virus so there is no logic in keeping them isolated and stigmatising them further," said a noted pulmonologist.

Pulmonologists say that one should not wait for the swab test results to start the treatment for covid. As soon as they start developing even the mildest of symptoms, they should start with the symptoms. They also added that the treatment should be mild and patients should not be overdosed with medicines as the body should be given a chance to tackle the virus naturally and create antibodies on its own.

Pulmonologists say that only the patients who have comorbidities or are senior citizens should be given some antiplatelet medicines for the first two weeks since covid is usually known to create clots. However, the doctors say that the Omicron variant of covid is extremely mild and is only restricting the infections to the upper respiratory system. Moreover, most people are vaccinated hence they are already at a low risk of developing severe symptoms. The outpatients can end their isolation period after seven days given that they do not have fever for three consecutive days after their isolation period ends. Only the patients who have comorbidities and are experiencing high fever for more than three days or patients whose level of oxygen saturation is falling below 95 in room temperature are the ones who require hospitalisation.

The doctors say that the Omicron variant of the virus is not causing hospitalisations and people are recovering soon. They are of the view that we might be nearing the end of this pandemic.

State 100% protected

Karnataka on Sunday achieved 100 per cent coverage of the first dose of covid-19 vaccine among its eligible population, Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said. He also claimed that Karnataka became the first state in the country to achieve this feat. "We made it! It took us exactly 1 year and 7 days to achieve 100% first dose coverage... Kudos to all health workers and district administration on this stellar achievement!" Sudhakar tweeted. According to the data shared by him, Gadag district achieved 105 per cent vaccination of its eligible population with the first dose whereas inoculation coverage in Bidar, Bagalkot and Vijayapura districts, was 104 per cent of the population.

Covid negative, yet in hospital

Woman asked to be admitted for 7 days after paying ₹20K advance

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A resident of Sarjapur Road faced a harrowing experience from a hospital in Yelahanka when she contacted them to enquire about her domestic help having symptoms of flu.

Almost 30 minutes after sending her domestic help to the Covid Care Centre that was run by the private hospital, the resident got a call from them, informing her that her domestic help had tested positive for covid-19 when an antigen test was conducted. The hospital staff mentioned that she had to be admitted for seven days and an advance of Rs 20,000 had to be paid immediately. "The hospital told Anju (name changed) that the domestic help was infected with the Omnicron variant and the patient required a blood transfusion as her platelets were low. Upon being asked to send the reports, the hospital deferred it. Anju emphasised that the patient should not be touched and insisted on the report being sent to her," said an acquaintance, who chose to remain anonymous. Growing suspicious due to the ambiguous nature of the hospital staff, Anju contacted the BBMP and got her domestic help shifted to the BBMP covid care centre in Whitefield. However, to admit her there, the hospital required a SRF (Specimen referral form) ID. The private hospital refused to send the ID, stating that the patient had been discharged from their hospital. "After a long wait, the domestic help managed to send her sample collection message. Anju got to know that the sample was collected after the hospital said that she had tested positive. The BBMP care centre said that they would require a report signed by the lab in-charge as well as the name of the hotel which was turned into a covid care centre," the acquaintance added.

> **"Hospital authorities mentioned that the patient was Omicron positive and required blood transfusion** – Source

The hospital at Yelahanka refused to cooperate. After long hours of feud, the hospital forwarded the RT-PCR report without the name of any hospital, signature or seal. The BBMP doctor refused to accept it. Seeing no end to this ordeal, the BBMP doctor wanted to speak to the receptionist. Realising that they were in trouble, the receptionist forwarded the call to the lab in-charge who confessed that the test had not been conducted in the first place. The BBMP doctor demanded a letter from the hospital, mentioning the entire incident. In the first letter, the hospital said that they administered an antigen test which was inconclusive. However, verbally they mentioned that they had not conducted the test. Moreover, the letter sent by the hospital was signed by the receptionist instead of any authority.

Anju demanded a refund as her maid had only stayed there for a day. However, they refused to pay the amount and they stopped receiving her calls.

After the domestic help was admitted to the BBMP Covid care centre, an RT-PCR test came negative.

Second wave peak breached

After a dip, covid cases once again shot up in Bengaluru with the city reporting 26,299 cases. Meanwhile, the daily tally in the State (50,210) breached the second wave peak (50,112 reported on May 5, 2021). Presently, there are 3,57,796 active cases in the state, while the positivity rate stands at 22.77 per cent. Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar informed that 165 new cases of Omicron have been confirmed in Bengaluru today, taking the overall tally in the state to 931. Around 19 people had died of covid in the State including eight in Bengaluru.

C+ PHC staffer 'forced' to work

While covid positive patients are asked to isolate themselves immediately once they show any symptoms, here a 31-year-old medical staffer from Nandini Layout's Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) was asked to continue to work, even after testing positive for the virus.

The medical staffer had symptoms, with cold, sore throat and mild cough. On Saturday afternoon her results came out as positive.

Sources revealed that the staffer who was working at the PHC looked sick and fatigued, while her eyes were red. It was alleged that the senior medical officer received her positive report around 1.30pm, but she was asked to continue to work till 4 pm.

What was shocking is that she even continued to vaccinate a bunch of people, while she was covid positive.

"A data entry operator as well who was covid positive, was threatened to be terminated if he took leave. Many scared of losing their job continue to work. We are working seven days a week, without any break. It is getting exhausting for everyone," said a staffer.

It was also pointed out that most of the staff at the PHC haven't been paid for three months and yet they have been asked to work without taking a break. "Most of them are facing difficulties to meet their daily needs without getting paid. We are only getting assurances that we will be paid the entire amount soon," a staffer said. "With the cases increasing, the number of patients coming in for check ups, further carrying out testings and vaccination is adding to the pressure."

When BM reached out to the west zone officials, they were unavailable for a comment. — **Iffath Fathima**

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In Brookfield Layout residents pave way

RWA to crowdfund, plan, construct solution to protect road all by themselves

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Rough plan for the proposed culvert, sourced from RWA member. Project could cost Rs 5.5 lakh approximately

Fed up with uncoordinated underground works ruining the asphalted road in their area, residents of Brookefield Layout have proposed a permanent cable duct-cum-rainwater drain. The proposal has received the green signal from the MLA of the area and the project is estimated to cost Rs 5.5 lakh. It will be crowdfunded and carried out by the resident welfare association of the area.

After multiple civic authorities kept digging the road at different spots since June 2020, the road became unusable for a whole year. The road was asphalted by the BBMP again in August, but it didn't take too long for another proposal to dig the road to come by. Just two months after being restored, BESCOM wanted to dig the road again.

This residents to come up with the proposal to construct a permanent cable duct, to prevent further digging. The duct has been designed to withstand extremely heavy and frequent truck traffic. The duct will also serve as a water culvert to reduce the massive inflow of water into the lower-lying Ryan Road.

When residents approached authorities with the proposal, they were suggested to build the culvert themselves. The residents, not new to crowdfunded fixes in their neighbourhood, decided to take up the work. Utilising the expertise of engineers in the Brookfield Layout, they designed the culvert.

"A basic engineering design tells us the cost could come up to Rs 5.5 lakh. As per our estimates, if folks contribute between Rs 8,000 to 16,000 per head, we can collect sufficient funds," said Arvind Keerthi, member of Brookefields Layout Residents. If the group fails to collect the required funds, it will return the donations.

The proposal has also received the green signal from MLA Aravind Limbavali.

"Their plan is self-funded and self-executed… There is no financial commitment from the government or any government agency. Such a system of neighbourhood self-improvement and development, funded and led by residents themselves, is to be lauded, as it gives residents a powerful sense of neighbourhood engagement and self-governance. This letter is to request all government officers in charge of Brookefield Layout, including the executive engineer (BBMP), the engineer (BESCOM), etc., to kindly extend their cooperation to aid the efforts of the Brookefield Layout Residents," wrote the MLA in a letter.

When residents approached authorities with the proposal, they were suggested to build the culvert themselves

Previously, these residents have built footpaths, fixed streetlights, erected bollards, and placed manholes in strategic areas with crowdfunding. They also conduct regular drain and street cleaning using the staff hired by residents. Residents said, since 2014, the area has changed substantially and if they stop, the situation could worsen within months.

"We don't respect public property and are quick to say that the government is not helping us. We are only contributing for a very small percentage of the improvements required in the city. After having to prioritise spending on highways, defence, skylines, there is nothing left for the common man," said Keerthi.

He added, "local taxation" is more transparent and ensures accountability. People in the neighbourhood are more aware of the ground-level problems than political leaders. If residents assume collective responsibility for public property, they can avoid large-scale problems, he said.

"I suggest that other RWAs fix issues instead of lobbying for changes. Crowdsourcing is empowering," added Keerthi.

However, some civic organisations have opposed this approach.

Srinivas Alavilli, head of civic participation, Janaagraha, said, "This sets a wrong precedent and is a terrible idea. Residents must crowdsource ideas and energy, not money. A citizen's job is to hold the government accountable, not give them funds. Unless you have stopped paying taxes, you should not be contributing to any work that a civic agency is supposed to do."

"Where does it stop? How much must citizens fund and do privately? What is the lesson here for Mahadevapura? Should we not look for help from BBMP or GoK?" Whitefield Rising wrote on Twitter, responding to the proposal.

More EV charging stations in Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the additional 455 EV charging stations through a PPP model. Amongst the 455 proposed stations, we shall have 176 stations at BESCOM head office; we have called tenders for the same. The other stations will come up at BMRCL, KSRTC, BBMP and other premises. The idea is to bring in more charging stations, so that more electric vehicles would be used, which will reduce the impact of air pollution."

Cholan further added that the department is planning to install direct chargers (DC) in the city. "We are planning to install the 25 kW charging stations that are direct current-based charging stations, wherein fast charging can happen within 30 minutes. Each charging point shall cost Rs 8 lakh. Each station shall have five charging points, wherein one charging station will cost close to Rs 40 lakh. We are seeing more utilisation of EVs now. It was minimal when we had started the installation, but now the demand has increased as EVs are low on maintenance and with more number of manufacturers entering the market; many people are transitioning to electric vehicles now," he said.

The department is in talks with resident welfare associations to install charging stations in apartment blocks. "Meetings are on with RWA groups to set up EV charging stations. Many seem to be interested and soon we will have it implemented depending on the needs of apartment complexes," Cholan further noted.

BESCOM plans to set up charging stations along the highways as well: "We are discussing with highway authorities and hotels located on highways to install EV charging stations. We have plans to link all district headquarters and have spoken to deputy commissioners to identify space to set up charging stations in Tumakuru, Davanagere, Kolar among other locations. Some of the DCs have already responded; we will soon start setting up the stations in other districts as well," added Cholan.

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Muddy 'n messy
Hegde Nagar

The areas is filled with mud and looks underdeveloped.

At snail's pace
Shivajinagar

Works on a stormwater drain on Shivaji Road have been going on at a slow pace. This is causing shop owners to lose customers as commuters try to avoid this road.

Motorists at risk
Cooke Town

The junction between Wheeler Road Extension and Pottery Road was dug up to lay sewage pipes. After works, the authorities concerned did not level the road well.

CRUEL INTENTIONS

Married man cons Mallathahalli woman for Rs 31 lakh

The duo met via a matrimonial website

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A 37-year-old techie filed a complaint against a man she met on a matrimonial site four years ago and promised to marry her. It is said, he cheated her and took Rs 31 lakh from her, but she found that he was married twice and has children.

Shwetha (name changed), a resident of Mallathahalli, is an associate program manager at a well known IT company. She filed a complaint with the Jnanabharathi police on Thursday against the accused, identified as Mohan.

She told the police that she resides with her parents and brother in Mallathahalli and in September 2018, she met Mohan GS, from Gundlupet in Chamrajnagar, via a matrimonial site.

It is said that Mohan told her that he was working as a manager with a well known company in Bellandur and promised to marry her.

"Since then, we had been meeting each other in Jayanagar. He convinced me that we would settle down in Mysuru after marriage. In 2020, he told me that he had bought a site in Mysuru and requested me to arrange Rs 10 lakh for him as he was short on money. Believing that he would marry me, I took a personal loan of Rs 10 lakh from a private bank and transferred it to his bank account in June 2020. After a few days, he informed me that he was trying to get a bar licence in the city and needed Rs 25 lakh and forced me to arrange the money. I took two more personal loans from two different private banks and transferred Rs 21 lakh to him in five transactions. Post this, I asked him to get married to me. He came to my house in February and spoke to my father about the marriage proposal and my father agreed. He told me that once my loans were cleared, we would get married in August," she stated.

> **He threatened to kill me and outraged my modesty in front of the public**
> –complainant

She stated that the two were in touch and were meeting often in the city and he kept pushing the date for the marriage. "My father got in touch with his brother-in-law to enquire about him when he informed him that Mohan had been married twice. He divorced his first wife, whom he has a child with and has a second wife. My father informed me about this and asked me to stop contacting him after which I confronted him in November 2020 in a restaurant in Nagarbhavi. He told me that he was not married and it was all a lie. He promised me that he would marry me and tried to convince me again and asked me to give him Rs 20,000 to get his car repaired as he needed money urgently. I refused to believe him. He threatened to kill me and outraged my modesty in front of the public," she said in her complaint to the police.

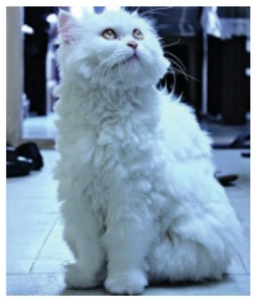
A senior officer said that the accused had convinced the woman that he would marry her and kept taking money from her. After learning that he was married she came forward to file a complaint, he said.

The Jnanabharathi police have registered a case under IPC sections 506 (criminal intimidation), 384 (extortion), 420, (Cheating) and 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty). Further investigation is underway.

'Cat was stolen'

An animal activist has filed a complaint with the Tilaknagar police after her Persian cat went missing from her house in Jayanagar. She suspects that the cat was stolen. The activist has announced Rs 35,000 as reward to find the cat.

Misbah Shariff, 24, an animal activist, rescued a Persian cat when it was a kitten and abandoned by someone in May 2019. She said, "Alizey is only three and half years old and had severe health issues when I found her. I have rescued and fostered many pet animals and she was one of them. She had a fungal infection and while taking care of her, I was also infected severely. We both recovered together. During the fostering period, my family and I got attached to her and decided to adopt her. On January 15, my father saw her at 12 am. As we don't lock her up inside the house, she keeps stepping out and comes back in. Around 1 pm, we checked everywhere in the house but couldn't find her and assumed she was outside and would return but she didn't."



Animal activist announces Rs 35,000 as reward for her cat (in pic)

She said that the cat is quite expensive and a Persian cat costs about Rs 20,000, if purebred. "Anyone looking at her could have easily gauged the price and might have stolen her. We have been checking all CCTV cameras but have not been able to find anything," she said.

The Tilaknagar police have registered a missing case and investigations are underway.

-Pragna L Krupa

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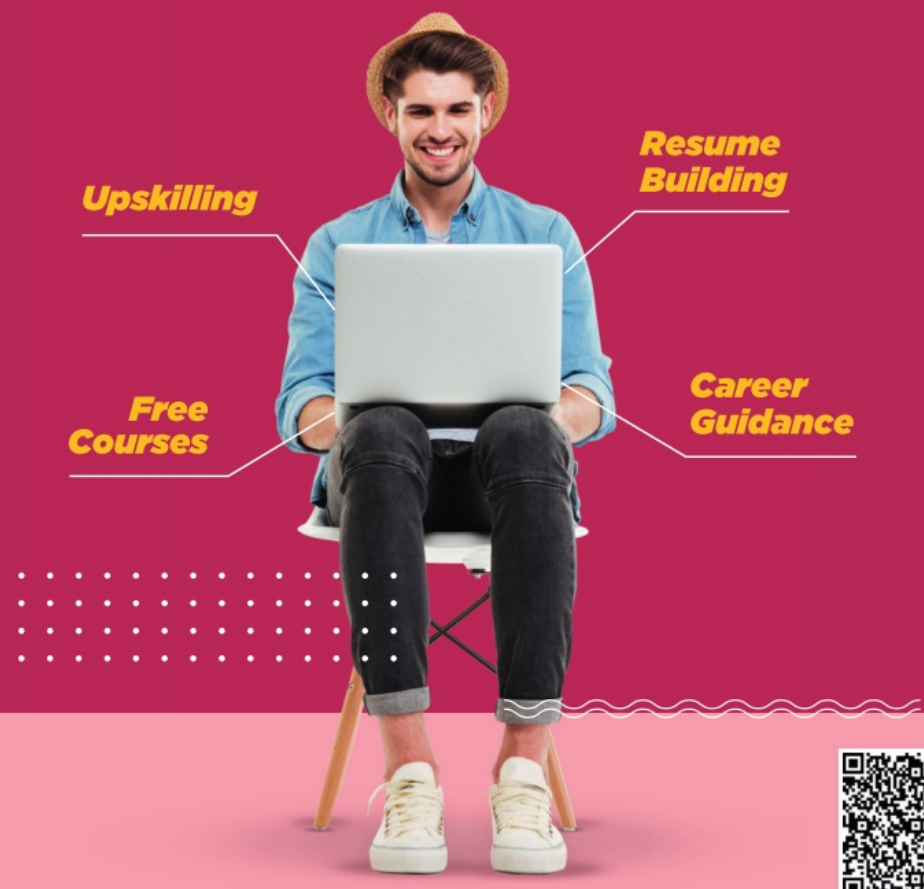

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It's sedimentary...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of eucalyptus, I was left with no other option but to clear the field. However, I realised that eucalyptus farming had damaged the soil and the quality had deteriorated significantly," Yallesh told BM.

It was around the same time that Yallesh got an opportunity to attend a meeting convened by the National Green Tribunal monitoring committee on Varthur Lake to educate the farmers on the use of the silt as manure. Yallesh attended the meeting and got a few tippers truckloads of silt transported to his field.

"We tilled the land and mixed the silt with soil. Apart from providing nutrients to the crops, this soil-silt mixture absorbs water slowly and maintains a moderate temperature in the farmland. We applied the silt last year and we will do it again in April this year. I have been growing green vegetables since then and productivity has skyrocketed. It has gone up by Rs 1.5 lakh/acre/annum," said Yallesh.

According to experts, in traditional agriculture, silt gathered from village tanks and lakes was reapplied to fields to improve soil fertility. They say lake silt is rich in carbon nutrients and other organic content, thereby enriching the soil.

"The Varthur silt is high in nutrients. Once the farmers apply the silt, they need not go for any chemical fertiliser. The silt alone is doubling the crop productivity in the villages surrounding Varthur. Historically, people have been using silt from the lakes to grow their crops. But today, this practice is far removed, creating the need for chemical fertilisers," said Dr TV Ramachandra, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, who was a part of the NGT monitoring committee on Varthur lake.

The use of silt as manure is helping farmers diversify their produce and earn a better livelihood. GK Manjunath Babu, a rose grower from a nearby village around the Varthur Lake, is yet another beneficiary. Manjunath has been growing roses on his 4.5-acre land for generations, and said the yield has never gone up so much.

"We have been growing roses for the last 60-70 years. But, the productivity has never been this good. It has gone up by 60% with the use of Varthur silt. No amount of fertilisers had done this for me before," said Manjunath.

According to MA Khan, principal, KK High School, Varthur, up until a few decades ago, the farmers in the area used the silt from the lake as manure.

"The Varthur silt is high in nutrients. Once the farmers apply the silt, they need not go for any chemical fertiliser

"I have seen Varthur Lake since my childhood. I recall villagers collecting the silt in bullock carts during summers to be applied in their farmlands. However, with the rapid urbanisation, sewage water started flowing in the lake all throughout the year and it never dried up. Thus, the old practice faded," recalled Khan.

Currently, the BDA is transporting Varthur silt to around seven villages within 15 km of the lake periphery and the authority says the demand for the silt is on the rise.

"We are supplying Varthur silt to around seven villages free-of-cost. This is reaching over 50 farmers. We have already supplied 2.5 to 3 lakh cubic meter of silt since March 2021 and the demand is ever increasing," said Aravind SS, assistant engineer, BDA.

According to experts, it is high time the government gave priority to watershed management programmes and made sure desilting of lakes is done throughout the state.

"We have thousands of lakes and tanks across Karnataka. If we rejuvenate all the polluted lakes on the lines of Varthur Lake, we will not only be solving the problem of water scarcity but will also ensure better livelihoods for people in the surrounding villages. For example, Kolar district has about 4,800 lakes and receives 600-700 mm of annual rainfall. However, last year, the district received 2,100 mm of rainfall but most of the water ran off due to reduced water holding capacity of the lakes. Government should give priority to watershed management programmes and make sure desilting of lakes is done throughout the state," said Dr Ramachandra.

HELI TOURISM GETS A BOOST

To promote heli tourism in the State, Government of Karnataka has entered into a MoU with two aviation companies for a period of five years. The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) will be tying up with luxury resorts and hotels in the State. Besides this, KSTDC will also help in getting government helipads for the purpose. The aviation agency will provide a minimum of 50 trips of passenger services per year for the first two years and 100 trips per year from the third year onwards. The agency will tie up with hotels and resorts for picking up and dropping passengers from the nearest helipads.

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Analysts say finance will prove critical to put our electrical vehicle dream into the next gear

Sridhar.Vivan
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Even as more motorists warm up to the idea of going electric, the focus is yet to shift to financing electric vehicles (EV). Unlike internal combustion engines (ICE), not many financial institutions are coming forward to offer loans to buy EVs. Though incentives, investment and innovation are driving India's rapidly increasing EV adoption, analysts say that finance will be critical to achieving the next scale. The real and perceived risks of a relatively new asset class have meant that financial institutions like banks and NBFCs have not yet built up their confidence or capabilities of financing the sector.

NITI Aayog has released a blueprint for inclusion of EVs in Priority Sector Lending Guidelines. According to this report, India's EV finance market could reach Rs 3.7 lakh crore in advances by 2030. "Priority sector lending can be a crucial pathway to helping realise this potential. If designed well, it can incentivise banks to finance EVs and improve finance for NBFCs, while institutionalising the importance of the EV sector within the financial industry. Considering socio-economic potential, livelihood generation potential scalability, techno-economic viability, and stakeholder acceptability, market-ready electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers and commercial four wheelers offer the ideal starting point for priority sector lending (PSL) inclusion," states the report.

The report states that PSL mandates certain banks to direct a specified percentage of bank credit to priority sectors. Inclusion for retail lending to EVs has the potential to increase investor confidence by providing a market signal of ongoing government commitment to the sector. It can also ensure a swift and equitable transition by providing a mandate for financial institutions to direct credit to segments and use cases where credit deficiency persists despite compelling economics. "Electric vehicles represent favourable segments towards inclusion of EVs in priority sector lending due to greater need for formal credit, higher potential for job creation and scale in urban and rural areas, relatively high sales forecasts, greater model availability, and smaller gap to parity in total cost of ownership," the report added.

To operationalise the concept of including EVs in PSL, the report has stressed that the Central policymakers need to work with the Reserve Bank of India to design and issue guidelines. Financial institutions and the EV ecosystem can contribute by outlining how PSL inclusion can influence their growth and investment plans. "While this intervention is promising, it will not solve the financing challenges alone. Additional policy and market measures to address those challenges include state-level fiscal incentives, open data on vehicle performance, industry-led buyback programmes and loan guarantee facilities are the need of the hour," states the report.

The current scenario

Given the nascency of EV technology and adoption, financial institutions such as banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) are not lending to EVs due to associated asset and business model risks. These risks are both real (due to uncertainty of resale value) and perceived (like the product quality). As a result, if financing is available, EV buyers are unable to obtain terms like interest rates and tenures that are comparable to ICE vehicles.

Global experience

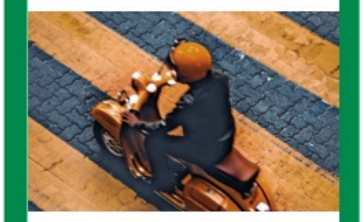
Clean Energy Finance corporation has been established in Australia with a risk sharing mechanism. Australia's public green bank partners with private banks to share risks and set up green vehicle loan schemes through an Asset Finance program. In the United Kingdom, the Scottish Government agency offers interest-free loans for cars, motorcycles, and scooters with longer repayment periods. In the United States of America, California State Bill 633 established an authority to lower EV capital with incentives, rebates, tax credits, loan guarantees, seed funds, and matching grants.

CHARGING POINT

EV makers press for incentives in Budget 2022-23

With the budget coming up, there is growing demand for sops to EVs. The Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) has requested the Centre to provide incentives in the form of subsidies on exports of affordable cars and scooters from India in the Budget FY23 to be tabled in the Parliament on February 1.

The electric mobility sector is a large space that Indian industries can capture before international players invade the market with "cheaper contraptions" SMEV DG, Sohinder Gill, said. These are part of SMEV's pre-Budget recommendations to the Centre. "Around the world, the craze for bigger SUVs and higher-powered motorcycles is slowly veining towards compact and smaller electric cars and scooters. Thus, wonders can be done in affordable small cars and scooters, just as they are in internal combustion engine vehicles," Gill said. SMEV also sought amendment in the PLI scheme by qualifying all MSMEs in the automobile



and auto components making business. Akash Gupta, Co-founder and CEO, Zypp Electric, said they are optimistic that the government will announce new initiatives to encourage local EV manufacturing, facilitate easy finance and create an innovative EV ecosystem.

BMB & Agencies

IIT researchers develop new tech for charging electric vehicles which costs half the current one

#New Delhi

Researchers from various IITs have developed a new technology for charging Electric Vehicles which costs about half of the current on-board charger technology and can help to significantly reduce the cost of two-and-four-wheeler EVs.

According to the team, the lab scale development has already been done at IIT (BHU) and upgradation and commercialisation was in progress.

One of the country's leading electric vehicle manufacturer has also shown interest in this new technology and is ready to develop a full-fledged commercial product that can be applied to existing electric vehicles, the team claimed without naming the company.

The technology has been developed at IIT (BHU), Varanasi, in collboration with experts from IIT Guwahati and IIT Bhubaneshwar.

"The rising prices of petrol and diesel in the country is worrisome for the common man. Amidst the rising cost of petroleum products and rising pollution levels, electric vehicles (EVs) are the best alternative to conventional IC engines but lack of high power off board charging infrastructure forces automakers to incorporate onboard chargers into the vehicle itself," said Rajeev Kumar Singh, Chief Project Investigator, IIT BHU.

"The vehicle owner can charge the vehicles through the outlet and hence, this leads electric vehicles become very expensive. In the proposed onboard charger technology, we are reducing one additional power electronics interface required for propulsion mode and, therefore, the components involved are reduced by 50 pc. The proposed charger is reconfigurable that can act as a charger for charging mode and inverter for propulsion mode," he told PTI. Singh explained that because of this technology, the cost of the onboard charger will be reduced by almost 40-50 pc in comparison with the existing one.

"The cost reduction in the charger will subsequently reduce the cost of the EV as well. In this way, the proposed technology is giving low cost technology for EVs.

"The technology will be completely indigenous and will have a significant impact on driving electric vehicles on Indian roads in a big way," he said. IIT BHU Director Pramod Kumar Jain said the techno-commercial, social, economic and environmental impact of technology will also be positive.

"The technology will improve charging infrastructure and support the government's mission to bring electric vehicles on Indian roads," he said.

PTI

Probe into Assam firing incident
The Assam government has ordered a high-level inquiry into a firing incident in Nagaon on Saturday where a ex-student leader was injured

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'Omicron is now in community spread'

INSACOG says new cases rising exponentially; variant has become dominant in metros; B.1.640.2 not detected so far

#New Delhi

The Omicron variant of covid-19 is in the community transmission stage in India and it has also become dominant in multiple metros, where new cases have been rising exponentially, said Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) in its weekly bulletin on Sunday.

"Omicron is now in community transmission stage in India and has become dominant in multiple metros, where new cases have been rising exponentially. BA.2 lineage is in a substantial fraction in India and S gene dropout based screening is thus likely to give high false negatives," it said. According to the report RTPCR screening applicable to all Omicron lineages, "Tests suitable for PCR based screening applicable to all Omicron lineages have been approved for use."

"While most Omicron cases so far have been asymptomatic or mild, hospitalizations and ICU cases have been increasing in the current wave. The threat level remains unchanged," it further said.

"The recently reported B.1.640.2 lineage is being monitored. There is no evidence of rapid spread and while it has features of immune escape, it is currently not a variant of concern. So far, no case detected in India," INSACOG added.

People throng Sadar Bazar market amid the rising covid-19 and Omicron cases, in Gurugram on Sunday

The bulletin also said the Omicron wave continues to expand globally, but the rate of hospitalisation during this wave is less.

INSACOG said, "Omicron wave continues to expand globally, with new highs being established for daily infections. The rate of hospitalization is much lower compared to the previous wave with Delta, attributable to both intrinsically reduced severity with lesser propensity to cause pneumonia, and higher immunity. But due to the high number of cases, the absolute number of hospitalizations has crossed previous highs in many countries." – ANI

Chinese Army has found missing boy from Arunachal: Defence PRO

#New Delhi

Days after their help was sought by the Indian Army to locate a 17-year-old boy from Arunachal Pradesh, a defence ministry PRO from Tezpur on Sunday said the Chinese Army has communicated to India that they have found a missing boy from Arunachal Pradesh.

"The Chinese Army has communicated to us that they have found a missing boy from Arunachal Pradesh and the due procedure is being followed," said PRO Defence, Tezpur Lt Col Harshvardhan Pandey.

Earlier, the Indian Army sought assistance from China's People Liberation Army (PLA) to locate and return a young boy who hails from Arunachal Pradesh and has been reportedly captured by the Chinese army, informed Defence Ministry's Tezpur Public Relation Officer. "17-year-old Miram Tarom of Zido was reportedly captured by Chinese PLA across the Line of Actual Control. Indian Army immediately contacted PLA through a hotline, assistance from PLA has been sought to locate and return him as per protocol," the PRO tweeted on Thursday. On January 19, Arunachal East MP Tapir Gao claimed that a youth has been abducted from inside Indian territory. Gao claimed the youth was 'abducted' from Arunachal's Upper Siang district. Gao further claimed that China's PLA has abducted the youth from where the Tsangpo River enters India in Arunachal Pradesh. He tweeted, "Chinese PLA has abducted Sh Miram Taron, 17 years of Zido vill. yesterday 18th Jan 2022 from inside Indian territory, Lungta Jor area (China-built 3-4 km road inside India in 2018) under Siyungla area (Bushing village) of Upper Siang." – ANI

A file photo of a delivery truck drives along India's Tezpur-Tawang highway that runs to the Chinese border

At 88.2 mm, Delhi logs highest Jan rainfall in 122 years

#New Delhi

A spell of rain late Saturday night brought Delhi's cumulative precipitation this January to 88.2 mm, which is the highest in the month since 1901, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Before this, the capital recorded 79.7 mm of rainfall in 1989 and 73.7 mm in 1953, the IMD data showed.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, has recorded six rainy days and 88.2 mm of rainfall this month so far. It got 19.7 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Sunday.

A Delhi Police personnel holds an umberalla amidst rain at Rajpath

The Palam Observatory also received a record 110 mm of precipitation this month, according to the data available on the IMD's website.

The rainfall had also brought the maximum temperature in the capital down to 14.7 degrees Celsius on Saturday, seven notches below normal and the lowest this season so far.

The maximum temperatures have been lower than normal since the second week of January. Minimum temperatures have been close to and above normal. This is largely due to clouds and rain. – PTI

Deaths at Canada border has Guj family worried

#Ahmedabad

A man from Dingucha village in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district on Sunday said he and kin were worried over reports of a family of four freezing to death while attempting to cross the US-Canada border as he was unable to establish contact with his family members who recently left for Canada.

The family was anxious over reports of a family of four, including a baby, believed to be Gujaratis, dying from exposure to extreme cold weather along the US-Canada border in what authorities of those countries believe was a failed crossing attempt during a blizzard.

Gandhinagar Collector Kuldeep Arya told PTI he has learnt about a family from Dingucha village going to Canada on a valid visa, but has not received any information regarding the deceased, or if they belonging to this village.

There has been no official communication from either the Ministry of External Affairs or Union Home Ministry over this either, Arya added. A cousin of one Jagdish Patel, who recently left for Canada with his wife and two children, said the family in Gujarat's Kalol is worried as they remain out of contact at present."We are worried after coming across news reports of four members of a family dying while attempting to cross the US-Canada border. My cousin left for Canada and we have not been able to talk to them since the last three-four days," Jaswant Patel told reporters. He said the Centre must give details on the deceased. – PTI

12 players C-positive, India out of women's Asian Cup

#Mumbai

India were forced out of the AFC Women's Asian Cup on Sunday after a dozen COVID-19 cases among their players led to the cancellation of a group match against Chinese Taipei minutes before kickoff here.

Apart from the COVID cases, two players were also laid low by injuries.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said given the situation, Article 4.1 of the tournament rules comes into effect, which makes it clear that if a team fails to assemble for a match, it would be "considered to have withdrawn from the relevant Competition."

All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Praful Patel also issued a statement expressing sadness at the turn of events but surprisingly did not clarify the team's tournament status. "We are as disappointed as probably the entire nation would be right now with this unwarranted situation," he said. "However, the players' health and well-being are of paramount importance to us, and it cannot be compromised under any circumstances. I wish all the infected players and team officials a swift and full recovery. They will be well supported by the AIFF and AFC."

SPORTS

Medical team waits at ground before AFC Women's Asian Cup match, before it was called off

India failed to name the required minimum of 13 players for the Group A match against Chinese Taipei before the game and there was no sign of the team at the ground even as the rivals warmed up. India were next scheduled to play China in the final group match on Wednesday but that is unlikely to go ahead. – PTI

HEALTH TIP: Cashews can lower cholesterol levels and reduce blood pressure

Consuming high amounts of red meat can increase chances of getting colorectal cancer

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BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 29-year-old married woman with kids. I have been using Veet hair removal cream on my hands and legs without a problem. If it does not cause any irritation, can I use it on my genitals? How frequently can it be used? Can men use it on their privates too?
If it has not caused a problem elsewhere, it should not cause a problem in your pubic area, or your husband's. First, try a patch test. If you don't react to it, go ahead.

2 Is it possible for a woman to get pregnant, if she was naked but her partner was fully clothed? My boyfriend came, rubbed his fingers on his groin and touched my vagina after that. I took an emergency contraceptive pill four hours later. I am worried. Please advise.
The sperm is not Batman. It can't whiz through barriers, whether underwear or pants. But clothes aren't the perfect protection. He should always be prepared like a boy scout and keep a condom handy.

3 I am a 29-year-old man working as an engineer with a reputed company. I come from a conservative middle-class family from South India. I am gay but my parents have been forcing me into marriage. Until now, I have not had a relationship with a man but have had few flings. If I get married, I may not be able to enjoy a sexual relationship with my wife. It will not be fair on my part to start a relationship based on lies, and jeopardise someone's future. On the other hand, I feel like having a family and leading a respectable life in society. I'm not able to decide whether I should marry.
You have to be very sure of your sexual orientation. If you believe you are gay, be bold and refuse marriage.

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No more period pain

Anshuka Parwani, celebrity holistic health and yoga expert, recommends five exercises to ease cramps during menstruation

Ria Bhatia
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We know that thinking of even moving an inch on days when period pain has gotten the better of you is impossible. We get it, you're in agonising pain and all you want to do is punch anyone within your sight. Or you may even feel like isolating yourself and taking comfort in a plate full of cake? In either situation, the cramps don't stop affecting you. This is the time to turn to the time-tested and proven asanas of yoga. Anshuka Parwani, Celebrity Holistic Health and Yoga Expert, Founder, Anshuka Yoga, walks us through the most-suited ones that you can try out.

Butterfly away
If stretching and relaxing your thighs comforts you during the toughest days of your period, trust this asana to help. "It helps with soothing the digestive system which, in turn, helps with menstrual pain and cramps. It also stimulates the ovaries and improves overall reproductive health. When you are in a reclined Baddha Konasana, it relaxes your abdominal muscles and eases cramps as well," explains Parwani. Since your back hurts horribly during your period, you can also lie down and give your thighs a similar stretch.

Pose like pigeons
Give your lower body a quick contorted movement with this pose and see the difference. "As the hips feel relaxed and stretched out in this pose, it helps with easing menstrual cramps. The hips are a huge part of what adds that extra pain and stress to the menstrual cramps, so relaxing them really works. This asana relaxes all the tension in the muscles in the hips with a good, deep stretch," says Parwani.

Try the cat-cow pose
Celebrities like Shilpa Shetty swear by this pose for a healthy and maintained spine. This is one of the easiest and quickest ways to relieve intense back pain. So, if a backache is what kills you the most during your period, get cat-cowing now! "Not only does this pose target the back, but also the abdominal muscles. The arching and curling of the spine stretches and warms up your muscles and therefore releases the pain in your back. This asana massages your back and abdominal muscles while stretching them as well," explains Parwani.

Or you can play dead
An asana widely practised for its soothing and de-stressing effects, Shavasana, is all about attaining some calm and peace by putting an unruly mind and negative thoughts to rest. "This is a very important asana to do daily but especially when you're experiencing menstrual aches and pains. When you're in Shavasana, it helps you to practice mindfulness and really tune into your body and breathing. This pose is about relaxing and focusing on the stomach or abdominal breathing which helps you meditate and not only think about the pain you're feeling," reveals Parwani.

Feeling child-like?
"This asana benefits the organs since it acts like an internal massage and therefore, relieves all the tension in your back, abdomen, shoulders and neck," says Parwani. Thus, get into the Balasana position as soon as you start experiencing cramps to control the pain that it shall cause across your lower body.

MIRRORLIGHTS

Nutrition in a nutshell

Ever since the pandemic forced people indoors, the focus on cultivating healthy and nutritious eating habits has sharpened significantly. With outdoor activities and exercises restricted owing to safety concerns, many people are worried that freely indulging in snacks – like they did in the past – might have adverse effects on their health. Diet-conscious people are switching to plant-based proteins that have fewer calories and less fat than animal-based protein. The good news is that you don't have to kill your cravings; you can simply switch to healthier snacks that are just as tasty but much more wholesome. Take pistachios, for instance.

People are increasingly becoming concerned about the quality and health benefits of food products. The rise of veganism has boosted the demand for plant-based alternatives, and young working professionals are looking for snacks that have health benefits. Parents, too, are planning more wholesome, nutritious and functional diets for their kids. California Pistachios tick all the right boxes for health-conscious consumers; they are wholesome,

nourishing, and tasty, and can be enjoyed at any time of the day and year.

Besides being a crunchy snack, California Pistachios are bursting with fibre, protein and healthy fats. Moreover, you get more pistachios per serving – about 49 pistachios, as compared to 23 almonds or 18 cashew nuts. Pistachios are not just a garnishing ingredient or a dry fruit to be had alongside meals; they are also a wholesome snack to satisfy your hunger pangs. Unlike potato chips, pistachios offer a good source of protein and fibre, with more than three times as many pieces per 28 g.

The secret to pistachios' satiating and nutritious quality lies as much in the shell as in the nut! Not just that, all California Pistachios are in-shell and this helps you to avoid mindless snacking. How? Well, the process of cracking open pistachio shells might slow you down during snack time. The empty shells might be a visual cue that helps snackers eat more mindfully.

-By Femina

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

YOU MEN SIT AROUND WHILE WE DO ALL THE COOKING, WASHING AND WOOD HAULING!
DO YOU THINK THAT'S ALL WOMEN ARE CAPABLE OF DOING?!
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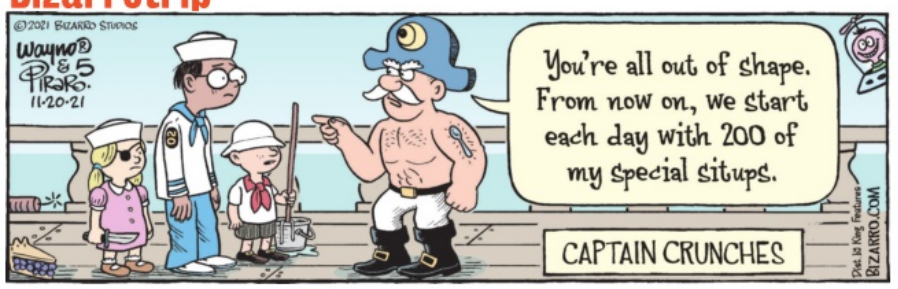
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Diamond Lil

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE TURKEY FARM:
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?
WELL, I WAS GONNA ASK FOR RAY-BANS
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Hart of the city

HEY, HON! HOW WAS THE AFTER-PARTY? DIDN'T GET TOO WILD, DIDJA?
WELL, MY OPINION OF DANA HASN'T CHANGED, AND I EMBARRASSED MYSELF ON THE TRAMPOLINE.
BUT MY LOVE FOR SEAWEED CHIPS HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY IN THE LAST TWO HOURS!

Crankshaft

WE NEED TO SET THIS UP HIGHER AND TO THE SIDE SO THE HALO LIGHT DOESN'T SHOW IN YOUR GLASSES.
SO THE HALO DOESN'T GO BEHIND MY HEAD?
NOT UNLESS YOU WANT IT TO.
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be able to complete difficult tasks very easily. This may boost your confidence. Your past investments may give you good gains. You are advised to avoid argument on worthless topics, it may waste your precious time.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is not good. You may feel unhappy, you may be dissatisfied with your current situation. You are advised to keep patience and should not take any decision in a hurry. You are advised to take care of your parents.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be enthusiastic. Your focus towards your goals may be very good. You may easily achieve your target. You are likely to go for short work-related trips , which may give you benefits in near future. Your colleagues and friends may help you in the completion of some important projects.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by Jupiter and moon. You may expect to get some rewards on behalf of your social services. You are appreciated by your seniors; you may also get promotions. Your losses may convert into profit now, which will increase liquidity in the business. You will plan to invest more capital into family business. This will increase your business in the near future.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel happy. Your health is also good, which may give you inner strength and self confidence. Your consciousness may not allow to manipulate the messy task to maintain your reputation around your environment. Your social prestige is likely to increase.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses due to your speaking while you are talking with anyone. Love birds should be careful in discussion, otherwise, your relationship may get affected.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may find mental peace. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which may increase liquidity. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family. Singles may find a suitable match. Love birds may make decision to get married. Students will be blessed by good karma.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be very happy; your losses may convert into profits. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You may have some changes into your place, position or responsibilities at work, in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and love birds may make important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

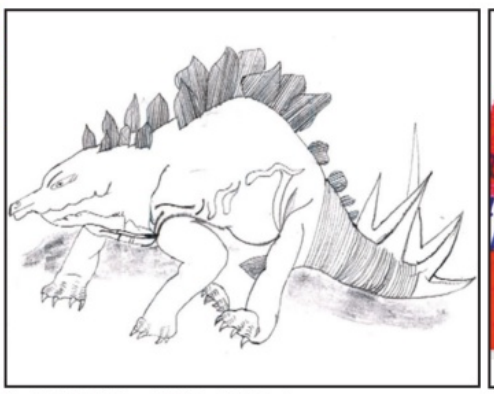
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, luck is with you. Your health may be good today. You may go to some religious place with the family or friends. You may plan to donate some money to any religious place or to some charity. Property-related deals are likely to get done. You may plan for an overseas travel related to work.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be victim of conspiracies. You should avoid to be involved in controversies; your strong willpower and blessings from elders may protect you from this critical situation. You are advised to avoid making arguments in love life. You should also avoid rash driving or any adventure trip.

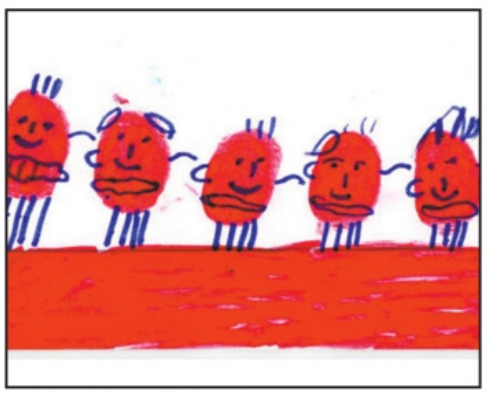
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you will be happy. You may feel peace of mind. Your focus towards your goals will be very good. You may have romantic moments with the spouse. Your bonding with your spouse may get stronger now. You will also be busy in other domestic issues.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be more enthusiastic. Your performance at work may be good; it may boost your terms with seniors. You may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. In legal matters, you may hear good news. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

KIDZONE



Ranjith M R, 14 Years, SVVP English School



Dhriti Naresh, 6 Years, DP School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
56 x 0.5 = 28

BULL'S EYE
cent, cite, clef, cleft, client, infect, INFLECT, lice, nice

STRIKE OUT

V	A	L	O	U	R	■	S	U	B	B	E	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	P	■	R	Y	O	T	S	■	R	■	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
X	Y	L	O	I	D	■	E	E	R	I	E	R	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	■	A	■	S	E	A	L	S	■	G	■	I	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
N	I	T	S	■	R	U	E	■	S	H	A	D	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
G	R	E	A	T	■	D	■	O	U	T	R	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	■	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	■	A	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	N	G	L	E	■	B	■	A	D	O	B	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
B	I	L	L	E	■	E	L	M	■	E	A	S	E	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	■	A	■	P	R	E	E	N	■	F	■	R	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
C	■	M	■	T	■	I	■	O	■	■	■	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	U	T	S	T	R	E	T	C	H	E	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
D	■	H	■	A	■	E	■	C	■	■	■	W	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	B	B	■	C	O	R	F	U	■	S	H	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	■	D	■	U	■	D	■	T	■	N	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	A	F	E	A	N	D	S	O	U	N	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	■	O	■	O	■	R	■	E	■	S	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	P	O	R	R	A	N	■	T	A	C	K	S	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	■	P	■	B	■	E	■	N	■	C	■	O	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	L	S	O	■	O	B	E	I	S	A	N	T	■	■

QUICK

C	H	A	N	G	I	N	G	■	T	H	A	I	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	■	K	■	N	■	W	■	N	■	C	■	H	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
H	A	I	T	I	■	A	X	O	L	O	T	L	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	■	A	■	P	R	E	E	N	■	F	■	R	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
C	■	M	■	T	■	I	■	O	■	■	■	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	U	T	S	T	R	E	T	C	H	E	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
D	■	H	■	A	■	E	■	C	■	■	■	W	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	B	B	■	C	O	R	F	U	■	S	H	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	■	D	■	U	■	D	■	T	■	N	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	A	F	E	A	N	D	S	O	U	N	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	■	O	■	O	■	R	■	E	■	S	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	P	O	R	R	A	N	■	T	A	C	K	S	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	■	P	■	B	■	E	■	N	■	C	■	O	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	L	S	O	■	O	B	E	I	S	A	N	T	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
D. The number of black dots in each grid increases by 1 each time, starting with the top left grid and working to the right, top row then bottom row.

SUDOKU

1	3	6	8	2	5	7	4	9
4	8	5	7	3	9	1	6	2
7	2	9	1	4	6	8	3	5
6	5	8	3	1	2	9	7	4
3	9	1	5	7	4	6	2	8
2	4	7	9	6	8	3	5	1
8	6	2	4	9	3	5	1	7
9	7	4	6	5	1	2	8	3
5	1	3	2	8	7	4	9	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, In, Sin, Sine, Veins, Navies, Vainest.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 8 − 8 + 8 = 17
Medium
5 + 2 × 5 + 8 = 43
Hard
3 + 3 + 4 × 5 = 50

LOOP

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

R	E	B	E	G
A	R	E	C	A
S	T	O	U	T
E	X	O	D	E
W	A	A	D	E

QUOTE UNCODE
To be outspoken is easy when you do not wait to speak the complete truth.

RIDDLER
Negative feedback

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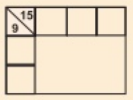
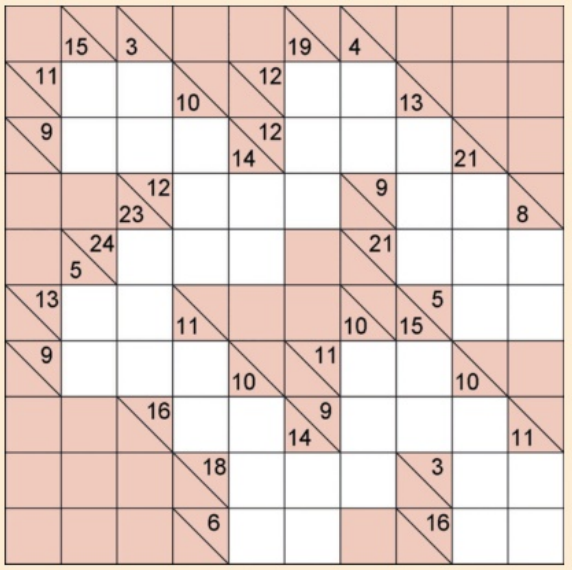
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

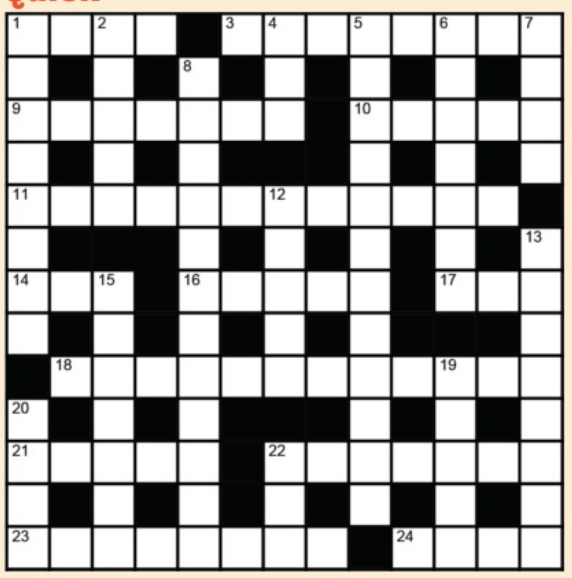


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 In addition (4)
3 Respectful (8)
9 Highland dress accessory (7)
10 Small nails (5)
11 Secure and uninjured? (4,3,5)
14 Flow back (3)
16 Second largest of Greek Ionian islands (5)
17 That female! (3)
18 Extended forward (12)
21 Caribbean Republic (5)
22 Mexican lizard (7)
23 Modifying (8)
24 Bangkok man (4)

DOWN

1 Estimated value (8)
2 Mockery (5)
4 __ Hur: Oscar winning movie ? (3)
5 Foreword (12)
6 Stresses, highlights or underscores (7)
7 Throw in the air (4)
8 The middle "B" in BBC? (12)
12 German painter and engraver (5)
13 Capital of India (3,5)
15 Movie theatre in Gandhi Nagar (7)
19 Alcoholic liquor of inferior quality (5)
20 Fashionable (4)
22 Barley beard (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS T

YT ZD TQYRETXDC BR DVRP KGDC PTQ HT CTY KVBY YT REDVX YGD FTAEUDYD YJQYG.

Linemaro

Let's go for a random walk that converges on a moonlit beach

Mindchow

Always remember you are unique, just like everyone else

Joke of the day

A hangover is the wrath of grapes

Loop

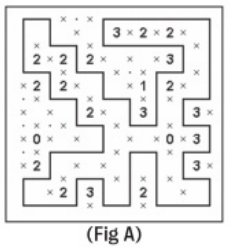
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

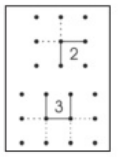
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

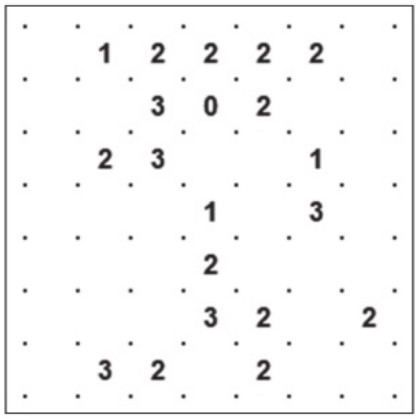
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



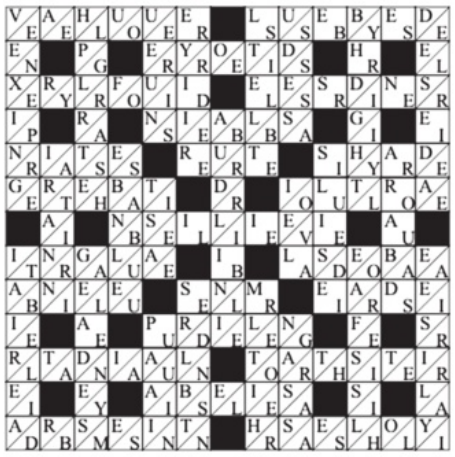
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



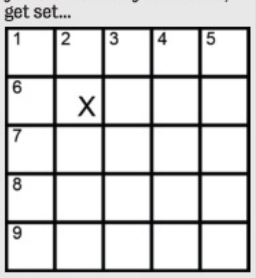
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

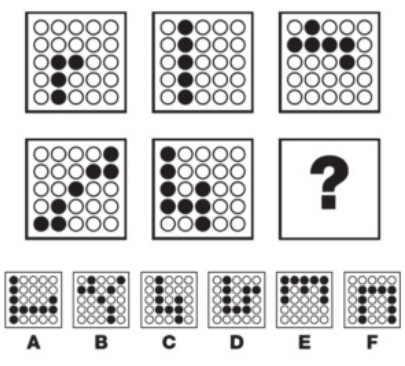
1 Reg be; 6 Ex Doe; 7 Touts; 8 A race; 9 Sawed

DOWN

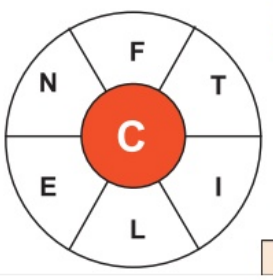
1 Wears; 2 Taxer; 3 Do OBE; 4 Deuce; 5 Gates

Mensapuzzle

What is missing in the last grid?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

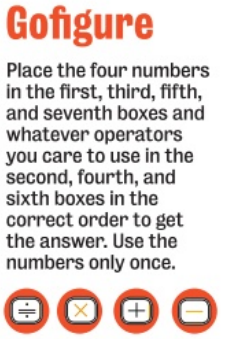
SudokuChallenge

		6	8		5	7		
4								2
	2		1		6		3	
	5		3	1	2		7	
3								8
	4		9	6	8		5	
	6		4		3		1	
9								3
		3	2		7	4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 17

8 8 8 9

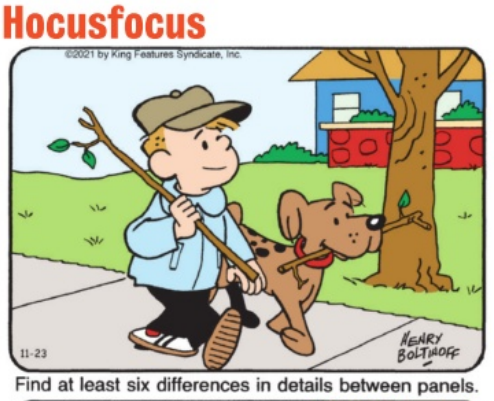
Medium = 43

2 5 5 8

Hard = 50

3 4 5 3

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

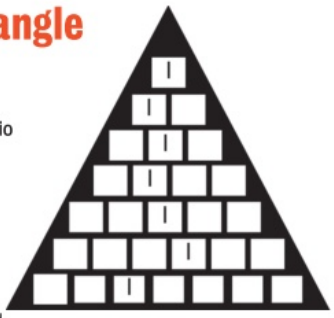
Differences: 1. Dog's paw is different. 2. Stick is shorter. 3. Tag is added to collar. 4. Gap is different. 5. Bush is taller. 6. Fence is added.

Riddler

What expression is represented below?–DEEF

Alpha triangle

1 Third vowel
2 Not out
3 Moral issue
4 Trigonometric ratio
5 Blood vessels
6 War fleets
7 Most conceited



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

And, it's a wrap
Months after working for filmmaker Laxman Utekar's film, actors Vicky Kaushal and Sara Ali Khan have wrapped the shooting in Indore

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Surrogateway to parenthood

We look at why some celebrities chose to have kids via surrogacy

Priyanka Chopra announced to the world on Friday that she is now a mom. The actor revealed that she and husband Nick Jonas welcomed a child via surrogacy. The couple is now among the growing list of stars who have turned to medical technology to expand their brood. Whether health issues or just a busy schedule coming in the way of family planning, here are some reasons why a few celebrities opted to have children via surrogacy.

Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas announced on Friday, "We are overjoyed to confirm that we have welcomed a baby via surrogate." While they kept mum about the gender and the date of the child's birth, reports claim that the baby, a girl, was born 12 weeks early. Revealing the reason why they opted for surrogacy, a report in Daily Mail claimed that their hectic schedules came in the way of their family planning.

Ekta Kapoor

The Queen of Indian television, Ekta Kapoor surprised all when she revealed that she welcomed a son Ravie via surrogacy. Interestingly, Kapoor revealed that she had been trying to get pregnant for the last seven years through various IVF treatments. After multiple unsuccessful attempts, she opted for a surrogate. "Nine months later she has achieved success with the birth of a child," read a statement from Kapoor's doctor.

Sunny Leone

Mom of three, Sunny Leone often said that it was a 'personal choice' how a couple decides to have a child. The actress and husband, Daniel Weber adopted daughter Nisha and had twin boys Asher and Noah via surrogacy. "We chose surrogacy to complete our family many years ago and it's now finally complete," the actress said in a post. She also revealed in an interview that she chose surrogacy as she wanted to keep working and provide for her kids.

Shilpa Shetty

Shilpa Shetty, who welcomed daughter Samisha through surrogacy last year, shocked fans when she revealed why she chose to go down that route to have her second baby. In an interview, she revealed she suffers from an autoimmune disease called APLA that caused a couple of miscarriages. She went on to say she even waited for nearly four years to adopt a child, but after that option also failed, she and her husband Raj Kundra decided to opt for a surrogate.

Lisa Ray

In a bid to normalise other fertility options available for couples, Lisa Ray shared her reason for opting for a surrogate. "Having been diagnosed with multiple myeloma (a form of blood cancer) in 2009, which requires me to be on a lifelong dose of medication, pre-empted the possibility for me to carry children myself. Fortunately, technology has progressed where there are choices and new possibilities for having children," She shared in an Instagram post. The actress and her husband, Jason Dehni are parents to twin girls Sufi and Soleil.

Kim Kardashian

Kim Kardashian has spoken openly about the medical condition that made it dangerous for her to carry her pregnancies to term. While the actress went through pregnancies with her first two children, North and Saint, she opted for a surrogate to carry her third and fourth children, Chicago and Psalm. The reality TV star stated that her first two deliveries were complicated by a medical condition that puts mothers and newborn babies at risk of bleeding to death.

Chemistry is all about the right time

Siddharth Anand's highly-anticipated film 'Fighter' starring Deepika Padukone and Hrithik Roshan has already created a buzz on social media. While 'Fighter' marks the first collaboration between Hrithik and Deepika on screen. In a recent interaction with a news agency, the Chhapaak' actress opened up on her chemistry with Hrithik Roshan in 'Fighter'. The actress explained that she always wanted to work with him.

According to her, sometimes it's not just about wanting to work with someone, she just feel like there are so many things, it has to be the right script, it has to be the right director, it has to be the right time in your life.

Elaborating, Deepika added that there are so many things that decide. The actress feels that it's the right time for us to come together.

Meanwhile, the actress is gearing up for the upcoming Shakun Batra directorial romantic movie that have been going on in full swing.

Naked scene was the hardest thing for Emma to do

Emma Thompson's naked scene in her new film about an older woman hiring a sex worker was "probably the hardest thing I've ever had to do," she told the Sundance film festival Saturday.

The Oscar-winning actress, 62, stars in "Good Luck To You, Leo Grande" as a repressed former schoolteacher who pays a male escort for the sexual adventures she regrets having shunned as a younger woman. The comedy set almost entirely in a hotel room addresses the ethics of sex work and taboos surrounding motherhood and ageing -- and sees Thompson tackle several intimate and nude scenes. The actors and director rehearsed "entirely nude" and played games that involved discussing their bodies on the scaled-down set in order to build trust.